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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

AMERICAN RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE

One of the most important duties devolving upon the Red Cross is to provide nurses in time of war and calamity. The National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, created by the War Relief Board of the American Red Cross (and consisting of fifteen members, nine of whom are selected by the American Nurses' Association), has been made responsible for the establishment of uniform qualifications to govern the enrollment of nurses and for the organization of an adequate Red Cross nursing personnel. State and local Red Cross Committees of nurses have also been appointed throughout the country. The Red Cross does not conduct a training school for nurses but enrolls, through its local committees, graduate nurses who fulfill the requirements prescribed by the National Committee.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS[1]

Training. To be eligible for enrollment, an applicant must have had at least a two years' course of training received in a general hospital which includes the care of men and has a daily average of at least fifty patients during the applicant's training. Upon recommendation of the local committee, subsequent hospital experience or post-graduate work which seems to supply deficiencies of training may be accepted as an equivalent by the National Committee. Graduates of state hospitals for the insane are not eligible for enrollment unless their experience includes at least nine months' training in a general hospital, either during their course of training or subsequent thereto.

Registration. In states where registration is provided for by law, an applicant, to be eligible for enrollment, must be registered.

Indorsements. An applicant must be a member of and indorsed by an organization affiliated with the American Nurses' Association, and have the indorsement of the training school from which she gradu-

[1] Although these regulations have been printed from time to time in the JOURNAL, they are given again at the request of the New York City Local Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service.

ated and of at least two members of the committee on Red Cross Nursing Service in her locality; or must submit such other evidence of fitness for the work as may be acceptable to the National Committee.

Age limits. Applicants must be at least twenty-five and not over forty-five years of age.

Citizenship. Nurses enrolling need not be native-born citizens, but if called upon for service in time of war they would be required to take the oath of allegiance specified in Army regulations. This oath does not in any way affect the citizenship of the nurse, and is only operative during the period of her employment in time of war.

No fee is required from nurses enrolling.

Appointment and badge. Approved applicants for enrollment will receive an appointment card and badge bearing the same number, record of which will be kept on file both by the local committee and the National Committee. The badge will remain, at all times, the property of the American Red Cross, and in case of death, resignation or annulment of appointment, both badge and card should be returned to the National Committee. The use of the badge is protected by act of Congress, and it should not be worn by any other than the person to whom issued.

Resignation. An enrolled nurse may resign, but should do so in writing, to the secretary of her local committee.

Response to call. Nurses need not respond to a call for service in time of peace when such response would seriously interfere with duties already assumed; but in the event of war in which the United States may be involved all Red Cross nurses would be expected to report to their local committees the earliest possible date on which they could be available for service, and should thereafter hold themselves in readiness.

Physical examination. Nurses need not take a physical examination at the time of enrollment, but before assignment to active duty may be required to do so when the nature of the service would render such an examination desirable. This examination will be made at the most convenient point, without expense to the nurse, and by a physician authorized by the local committee.

Compensation. Enrolled Red Cross nurses receive no allowance except when called upon for active service under the Red Cross. At such times the pay will be the same as is provided by law for the Army Nurse Corps—$50 a month in the United States and $60 elsewhere, with proper maintenance, traveling expenses and laundry allowance.

A nurse desiring to enroll for Red Cross Service should apply to the secretary of the nearest local committee for application bank. This

blank should be filled out in the applicant's own handwriting and returned to the secretary of the local committee from which obtained. If the address of the local committee is not known, it may be procured by writing to Jane A. Delano, Chairman, National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, Room 711, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

A CORRECTION

Through an oversight in the editorial office of the JOURNAL, the name of Fannie L. Clement was omitted from the heading of the article contributed by her to the Red Cross Department in the February JOURNAL. The heading should read: Red Cross Town and Country Nursing Service by Fannie L. Clement, R.N.